

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

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1. An apparatus comprising:
a monitor connection for receiving out of band signaling from a host telecommunications switch, and
a controller configured to monitor traffic between the publicly switched telephone network (PSTN) and a remote switching module (RSM).
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is further configured to monitor traffic through an umbilical link between an RSM and the host telecommunications switch and to segregate traffic between the PSTN and the RSM from other traffic on the umbilical link.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor called number information within out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.
4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor calling number information within out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.
5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor originating point codes within the out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor destination

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point codes within the out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report incoming usage to the remote switching module from all other switches within the PSTN.
8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report outgoing usage from the remote switching module to all other switches within the PSTN.
9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report usage of the umbilical link between the host telecommunications switch and the remote switching module in both directions.
10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report usage of the umbilical link for calls between lines terminated by the remote switching module.
11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report total usage related to each outgoing point code for calls terminating at the remote switching module.
12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report total usage related to each destination point code for calls terminating at the remote switching module.
13. A method for monitoring PSTN/RSM call traffic comprising the steps of:
(A) a controller receiving out of band signaling from a host telecommunications switch which channels calls from the PSTN to an RSM;

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- (B) the controller trapping on out of band signaling related to a range of numbers related to lines terminated by a RSM; and
- (C) the controller gathering call information related to those calls of interest, calls associated with lines terminated by the RSM.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

- (D) the controller compiling call related data associated with the calls of interest.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of:

- (E) the controller providing reports related to the calls of interest.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of:

- (D1) the controller monitoring calling number information within out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of:

- (D2) the controller monitoring originating point codes within the out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of:

- (D3) the controller monitoring destination point codes within the out of band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of:

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(E1) the controller reporting incoming usage to the remote switching module from all other switches within the PSTN.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of:

(E2) the controller reporting outgoing usage from the remote switching module to all other switches within the PSTN.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of:

(E3) the controller reporting total usage related to each destination point code for calls terminating at the remote switching module.

22. A computer program product for use with an remote switch monitoring system comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code thereon comprising:

code for receiving out of band signaling from a host telecommunications switch which channels calls from the PSTN to an RSM;

code for trapping on out of band signaling related to a range of numbers related to lines terminated by a RSM; and

code for gathering call information related to those calls of interest, calls associated with lines terminated by the RSM.

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22.

The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising:

code for compiling call related data associated with the calls of interest.

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23.

The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising:

code for providing reports related to the calls of interest.